

Certifiers Effort Reporting Manual

USING THE

MAXIMUS



https://highereducation.maximus.com/GenericERS/custom/index.jsp

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Introduction

This Certifier's Manual is not only for the Maximus Effort Reporting System but everything related to guaranteeing an accurate and certifiable effort report. This includes the steps needed and the forms to be filled out from the day the Research and Economic Development receives notice that a grant proposal is funded.

Any questions regarding the topics in this document may be directed to the Office of Grants & Contracts Administration, Cost Analysis at (704) 687-1873 or njqueen@uncc.edu.

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PURPOSE

The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Circular A-21 Cost Principles for Educational Institutions* (now referred to as 2 CFR 220) requires that any faculty member or staff employee with effort that results in salary costs charged to any sponsored projects, cost sharing, or any other University activities must be identified in an effort reporting system.

UNC Charlotte utilizes the Maximus effort reporting system (ERS) for certifying, after-the-fact; charges made to sponsored funds are at least equal to the salary paid and effort expended by the following University employees paid on Sponsored Funds:

- a. Permanent Faculty and EPA Staff
- b. Permanent SPA Staff
- c. Graduate Assistants
- d. Post-Doctoral employees

It does not matter what type of sponsor is funding your grant or contract or that its program purpose is research, training, or other sponsored activities.

WHAT IS EFFORT

Effort is the time spent on a particular activity by an individual. These activities include but are not limited to teaching commitments, mentoring, chair ships, research and any other scholarly activity. Effort is expressed as a percentage of the individual's total University work Effort.

The denominator of the Effort percentage must always be <u>total</u> University Work Effort, irrespective of the total number of hours worked during the Effort Reporting period.

For example, if a faculty member works an average of 50 hours per week during an Effort Reporting period and works an average of 10 hours per week on a particular sponsored project, the correct Effort percentage for that project would be 20%.

A precise assessment of factors that contribute to costs is not always feasible, nor is it expected. Reliance, therefore, is placed on estimates in which a degree of tolerance is appropriate (+/-5%).

DEFINING FULL WORKLOAD

Full workload includes instruction, research, public service, administration, and clinical activity (if applicable). "Under A-21, the proper base for determining an individual's effort percentages is the total activity for which the individual is compensated by the grantee institution."

At UNC Charlotte, a full teaching load is considered four courses per semester. Typically faculties teach two courses, some more, some less, each semester. If the faculty member is teaching two courses only, then 50% of the individual's time is available to do other things, such as advise students, sit on committees, etc and work on research projects.

INSTITUTIONAL BASE SALARY

Institutional Base Salary (IBS) is "the annual compensation paid by an organization for an employee's appointment, whether that individual's time is spent on research, teaching, public service, administration, patient care, clinical activities (if applicable) or other activities. Institutional Base Salary excludes any income that an individual is permitted to earn outside of duties for the applicant/grantee organization." (NIH Grants Policy Statement, Dec. 2003)

When linking IBS to full workload, total IBS must be distributed across all of a faculty member's activities, must be included in effort and accounted for within his or her 100% effort.

There are three basic salary bases for faculty at UNC Charlotte: Calendar year, Academic year and Summer Term. Following is a breakout for each based on month/week/days

Calendar Year	12 months	52 weeks	365 days	contract period is 7/1/XX – 6/30/XX
Academic Year	9 months	39 weeks	273 days	contract period is 8/16/XX – 5/15/XX
Summer Term	3 months	13 weeks	90 days	paid between 5/16/XX – 8/15/XX

Summer Salary paid from sponsored funds is considered incidental salary.

For faculty on a 12 month appointment, payroll % is calculated using the 12 month contracted Base Salary.

Each employee's payroll charged to sponsored and non-sponsored funds is divided by the employee's base salary to provide a Payroll % for each of the different activities on which the individual worked for the period.

Currently any Incidental Compensation, Including ALL Summer Salary, is excluded from effort during the Academic Year (8/16/XX - 5/15/XX).

SALARY CAPS AND GRANTING AGENCY REGULATIONS

NSF

Salaries and Wages

"In accordance with GPG Chapter II.C.2.g, NSF normally limits salary compensation for senior project personnel on awards made by the Foundation, to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year. This limit includes salary received from all NSF funded grants. Salary is to be paid at a monthly rate not in excess of the base salary divided by the number of months in the period for which the base salary is paid. "

If taken as summer salary, it will be calculated as follows:

Maximum Allowable Summer Salary = ((SS1/TSS X AR1) + (SS2/TSS X AR2)) X 2/9

Updated 1/11/13

Definitions:

- Summer Salary 1 (SS1) The number of NSF-funded days paid on summer salary during the first fiscal period (through June 30).
- Summer Salary 2 (SS2) The number of NSF-funded days paid on summer salary during the second fiscal period (after July 1).
- Total Summer Salary (TSS) The total of NSF-funded days paid on summer salary to the faculty member during the entire summer period.
- Academic Rate 1 (AR1) The applicable Academic Year Salary received by the faculty member during the fiscal period ending in the prior spring semester.
- Academic Rate 2 (AR2) The applicable Academic Year Salary received by the faculty member during the fall semester following the summer period.

Awards will also be monitored at project close-out to ensure any faculty receiving summer salary on that project did not exceed the two-ninths rule.

NIH

Salaries and Wages

Compensation for personal services covers all amounts, paid currently or accrued by the organization for employee services rendered to the grant-supported project. Compensation costs are allowable to the extent that they are reasonable; conform to the established policy of the organization consistently applied regardless of the source of funds; and reflect no more than the percentage of time actually devoted to the NIH-funded project. As required in its annual appropriations act, NIH will not reimburse grantees for the direct salaries of individuals at a rate in excess of the level specified in the appropriations language.

Salary Caps: NIH will not pay requested salary above the annual salary cap, which can be found at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm. If salary is requested above the salary cap, NIH will reduce that line item to the salary cap, resulting in a reduced total award amount. In future years, if the salary cap increases, grantees may re-budget to pay investigator salaries up to the new salary cap, but NIH will not increase the total award amount. If you are preparing a detailed budget, you are instructed to base your request on actual institutional base salaries (not the cap) so that NIH staff has the most current information in hand at the time of award and can apply the appropriate salary cap at that time.

NIH states that charges for faculty members as Summer Salary cannot exceed more than 3/9's salary from ALL Federal sources.

WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF PERSON MONTHS?

Person months - Is the metric for expressing the effort (amount of time) PI(s), faculty and other senior personnel devote to a specific project. The effort is based on the type of appointment of the individual with the organization; e.g., calendar year, academic year, and/or summer term; and the organization's definition of such.

How do you calculate person months?

Conversion of percentage of effort to person months is straight-forward. To calculate person months, multiply the percentage of your effort associated with the project times the number of months of your appointment. For example:

25% of a 9 month academic year appointment equals 2.25 person months (9 x .25= 2.25)

10% of a 12 month calendar appointment equals 1.2 person months (12 x \cdot 10 = 1.2)

35% of a 3 month summer term appointment equals 1.05 person months (3 x .35= 1.05)

Another example:

If the regular pay schedule of an institution is a 9 month academic year and the PI will devote 9 months at 30% time/effort and 3 months summer term at 30% time/effort to the project, then 2.7 academic months and .9 summer months should be listed in the academic and summer term blocks of the application (9 x 30% = 2.7 person months; 3 x 30% = 2.7

RELEASE TIME FORM

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Release time is the time an individual works on a project during their contractual period, for 9 month faculty this would be during the academic year between 8/16 each year and 5/15 of the following year. A 12 month faculty could have release time to work on a project any time of year.

If the grant fund pays for the time during the contractual period for the work done, it is referred to as "Release Time". In the case, where the grant is paying for the work done, a **Release Time form** must be processed to have the faculty members pay (or part of the pay) for that period of time come from the grant, thus freeing up the state funds that would normally pay the individual's salary.

If the work on the research project is done with no funds coming from the grant to pay for it, it constitutes cost sharing.

A Release Time Form is submitted by 9 month faculty to their Department Chair to request release time from his/her academic responsibilities to do research during the academic year. The form states the Period of Release by listing the beginning and ending dates, the amount the grant is paying for the period, the fund and account number and an explanation of what the released funds in the department will be used for.

Once this has been approved by the Chair of the Department and the Dean of the College, it is forwarded on

to Awards Management.

Remember, once a proposal is submitted and release time is shown in the budget, the funds then belong to the department chair.

COST SHARE

As of January 2011 NSF Chapter II.C.2.g(xi), "Cost Sharing, has been revised to implement the National Science Board's recommendations regarding cost sharing. Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited. Awardees are informed, however, that they remain subject to the 2 CFR 220 (OMB Circular A-21) Clarification memo regarding committing and tracking faculty effort Mandatory cost sharing will ONLY be required when explicitly authorized by the NSF Director."

Mandatory or Voluntary Committed Salary Cost Sharing must be reported. If some or all effort an individual expends on a specific sponsored research project is not funded by the project sponsor, but is mandated by the sponsor to be funded by UNC Charlotte or if cost sharing was offered by a UNCC Faculty and has become a binding term of the award, that cost shared effort must be reported in the Cost Sharing column (see UNC Charlotte Policy 602.6, Cost Sharing in Sponsored Programs).

If you know that the employee whose effort report you are certifying was supposed to be Cost Shared for a portion of their salary, please notify your Departmental Administrator or College Business Officer so it can be verified and added to the effort report.

Effort Reporting System Payroll Exclusion Rules

There are two Exclusion Rules used by the Effort Reporting System to accurately reflect the payroll to be included in the certification of effort.

- 1. **Academic Rule_** Permanent teaching salaries (account code 913100) charged to departmental state funds ONLY show on effort reports between August 16 and May 15.
 - 3 months of the faculties Institutional salary assigned to this account code (913100) and paid on fund 102110 that falls between May 16 and August 15 is excluded from the effort report
- 2. **Summer Rule_** Sponsor funded summer salary is ONLY paid between May 16 and August 15.
 - All Salary paid on account 911300 after August 15 is Excluded from the effort report

Summer Salary payment requests after August 15 will require additional documentation and rationale for delayed payment.

Below is the Effort Reporting table showing the Payroll numbers, the dates each covers and the Effort Reporting Period they fall in.

Pay No. by Fiscal Year					
Pay ID	Pay Number		Start Date	End Date	
SM	13		July 1	July 15	
SM	14		July 16	July 31	AP4
SM	15		Aug 1	Aug 15	
SM	16		Aug 16	Aug 31	
SM	17		Sept 1	Sept 15	
SM	18		Sept 16	Sept 30	AP1
SM	19		Oct 1	Oct 15	
SM	20		Oct 16	Oct 31	
SM	21		Nov 1	Nov 15	
SM	22		Nov 16	Nov 30	
SM	23		Dec 1	Dec 15	
SM	24		Dec 16	Dec 31	AP2
SM	1		Jan 1	Jan 15	
SM	2		Jan 16	Jan 31	
SM	3		Feb 1	Feb 15	
SM	4		Feb 16	Feb 28	
SM	5		Mar 1	Mar 15	
SM	6		Mar 16	Mar 31	AP3
SM	7		Apr 1	Apr 15	
SM	8		Apr 16	Apr 30	
SM	9		May 1	May 15	
SM	10		May 16	May 31	
SM	11		June 1	June 15	AP4
SM	12		June 16	June 30	

EFFORT REPORTING CALENDAR

UNC Charlotte issues effort reports for all employees on a quarterly reporting basis. Below is the Effort Reporting Calendar with completion timeline for each period. Please follow this dates as closely as possible.

	_												
-							Offic	ce of Grants	& Contract	s Administr	ation		
•													
UNC CI	HARLOTTE												
					Effo	rt Reportir	ng Procedu	res					
				Mavim		•	Calendar (2014)				
				IVIGAIII	ius Liioit	Reporting	Calendar (A1 2010 G	2014)				
Year 2012	- 2013						Year 2013	- 2014					
Academic	Period 1 (0	8/16/2012 -	11/15/2012)				Academic	Period 1 (0	8/16/2013 -	11/15/2013)			
	l ,		Cost Share		Pre-Rev					Cost Share		Pre-Rev	
Month	Begin Date	End Date	Due	Issue Date	Due	Cert Due	Month	Begin Date	End Date	Due	Issue Date	Due	Cert Du
September	8/16/2012	9/15/2012					September	8/16/2013	9/15/2013				
October	9/16/2012	10/15/2012					October	9/16/2013	10/15/2013				
November	10/16/2012	11/15/2012					November	10/16/2013	11/15/2013				
			11/9/2012	11/30/2012	1/11/2013	1/25/2013				11/8/2013	12/2/2013	1/3/2014	1/24/20
Academio	Period 2 (1	1/16/2012 -	02/15/2013)				Academic	Period 2 (1	1/16/2013 -	02/15/2014)			
	Ì		Cost Share	1	Pre-Rev			<u> </u>		Cost Share		Pre-Rev	
Month	Begin Date	End Date	Due	Issue Date	Due	Cert Due	Month	Begin Date	End Date	Due	Issue Date	Due	Cert Du
December		12/15/2012					December		12/15/2013				
January	12/16/2012	1/15/2013					January	12/16/2013	1/15/2014				
February	1/16/2013	2/15/2013					February	1/16/2014	2/15/2014				
			2/8/2013	3/1/2013	3/22/2013	4/12/2013				2/7/2014	3/3/2014	3/21/2014	4/18/20
Academio	Period 3 (0)	2/16/2013 -	05/15/2013)				Academic	Period 3 (0	2/16/2014 -	05/15/2014)			
	<u> </u>		Cost Share		Pre-Rev			<u> </u>		Cost Share		Pre-Rev	
Month	Begin Date	End Date	Due	Issue Date	Due	Cert Due	Month	Begin Date	End Date	Due	Issue Date	Due	Cert Du
March	2/16/2013	3/15/2013	Duo	loodo Bato	Duo	CONTRAC	March	2/16/2014	3/15/2014	Duo	locao Dato	Buo	OULTE
April	3/16/2013	4/15/2013					April	3/16/2014	4/15/2014				
May	4/16/2013	5/15/2013					May	4/16/2014	5/15/2014				
			5/10/2013	5/31/2013	6/21/2013	7/12/2013				5/9/2014	5/30/2014	6/20/2014	7/11/20
Academic	Period 4 (0	5/16/2013	8/15/2013)				Academic	Period 4 (0	5/16/2014 -	8/15/2014)			
	21104 1 10		Cost Share	I	Pre-Rev		1000011110	21104 1 10		Cost Share		Pre-Rev	
Month	Begin Date	End Date	Due Due	Issue Date	Due	Cert Due	Month	Begin Date	End Date	Due Due	Issue Date	Due	Cert Du
	5/16/2013	6/15/2013	Due	issue pale	Due	Certibue		5/16/2014	6/15/2014	Due	issue Date	Due	Certibu
<u>June</u> July	6/16/2013	7/15/2013	1				June July	6/16/2014	7/15/2014				
August	7/16/2013	8/15/2013				 	August	7/16/2014	8/15/2014				
nuguat	1110/2013	or 15/2013	8/9/2013	8/30/2013	0/20/2043	10/11/2013	August	111012014	0/13/2014	8/9/2014	8/29/2014	9/19/2014	10/10/20
			6/9/2013	6/30/2013	9/20/2013	10/11/2013				6/9/2014	0/29/2014	9/19/2014	10/10/20

LOGGING INTO THE EFFORT REPORTING SYSTEM

The URL: for the Maximus Effort Reporting Website is:

https://highereducation.maximus.com/GenericERS/custom/index.jsp

Please save this to your favorites.

When you log on to the ERS site:

Your username is your UNCC Employee ID #: 800XXXXXX Your Password should be your birthdate: mmddyy

If you have trouble with logging in, please contact your Central Administrator (CA).

Enter your User ID (800 Banner ID#) & Password (unique -- not Novell password) accordingly.



HOME PAGE AND DASHBOARD

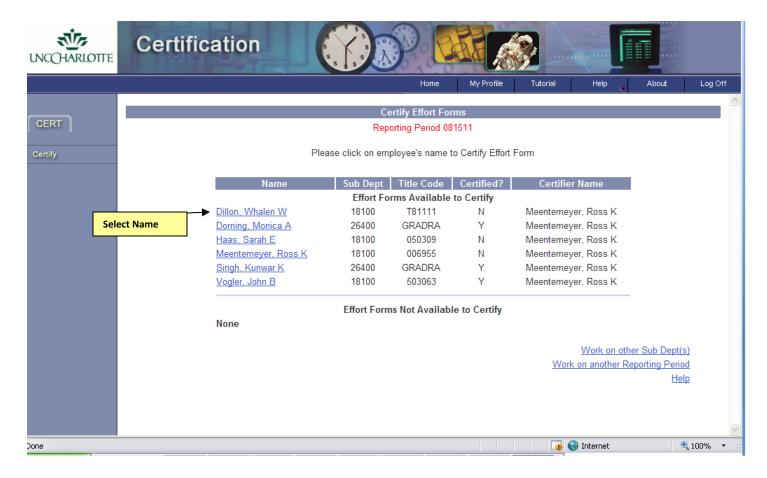
Upon logging in you will see your home page. This page contains data related to ALL effort reports you are responsible for certifying.

In the **STATUS/MY TO DO BOX** click the <u>number link</u> for the **Current Period** to see a list of pending effort reports.

If there are any outstanding Effort Reports from prior periods, they will show in the Prior Period box.

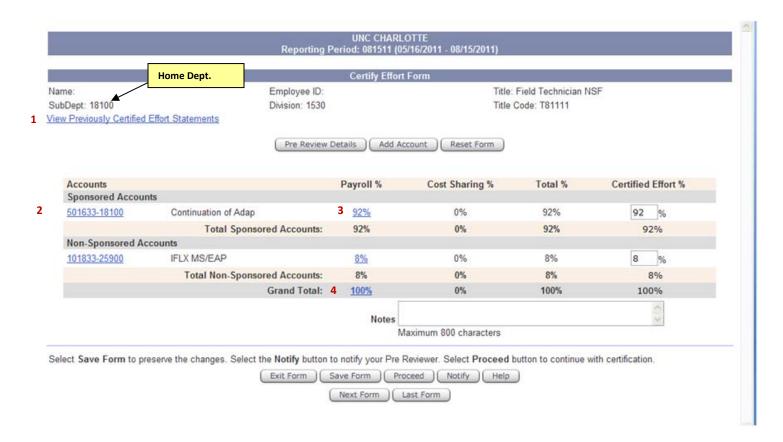


- 1. When you click the <u>number link</u> for the **Current Period** in the **STATUS/MY TO DO BOX** a screen listing the names of the employees whose effort forms are pending certification will appear.
- 2. Another way to access your "to be Certified" effort reports is to click on "CERTIFY" in the left side bar.

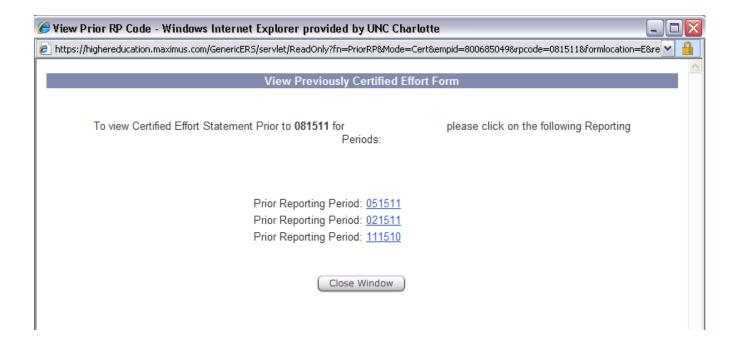


On the Certify Effort Forms page you select the employee you want to certify, by selecting the blue highlighted name and it will open their Effort Report.

THE EFFORT REPORT

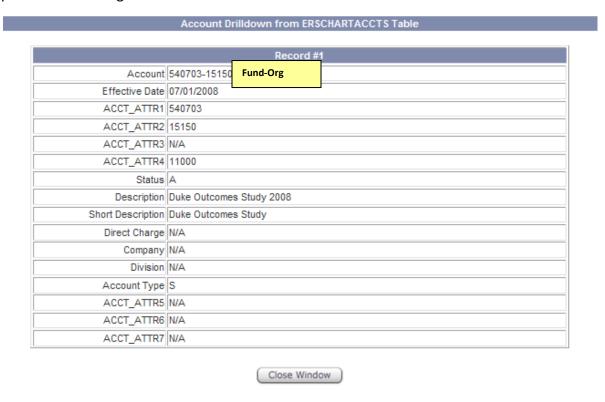


1. By selecting the link for "<u>View Previously Certified Effort Statements</u>, you will receive a list of all effort reports that have been generated and certified for the person. If you select the date, the effort report for that period will open.

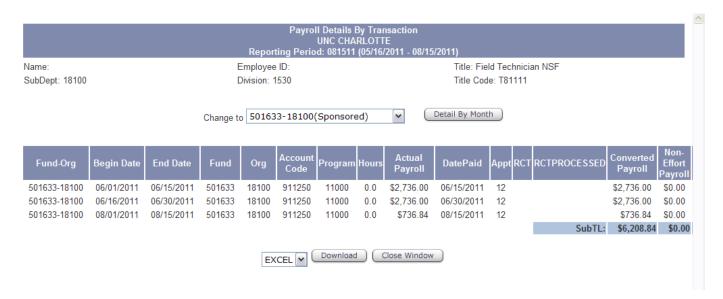


Updated 1/11/13

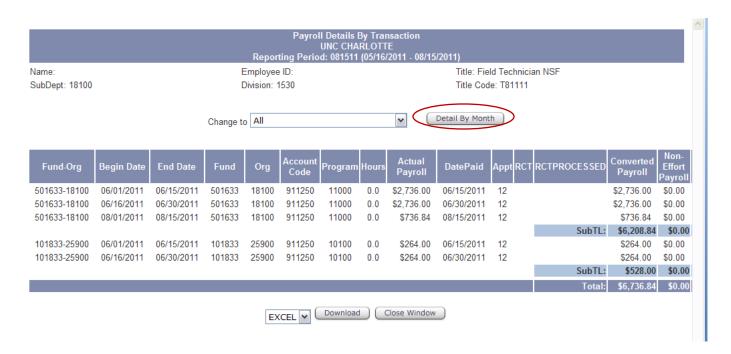
2. If you select the highlighted **FUND-ORG** link, you will get details from the Chart of Accounts Table on the particular fund-org.



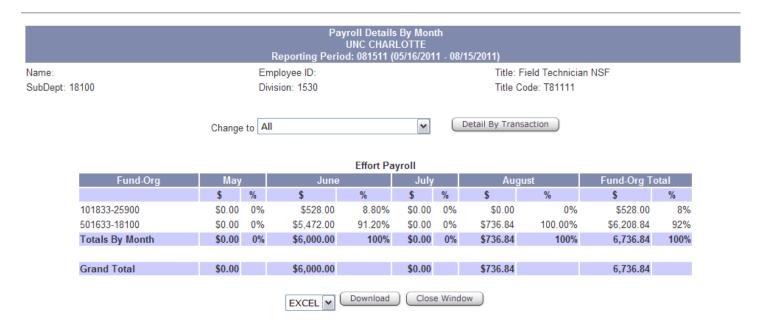
3. By selecting the <u>payroll %</u> for one fund, you will open a screen showing you the payroll charges, by payroll date, JUST <u>for that fund.</u>

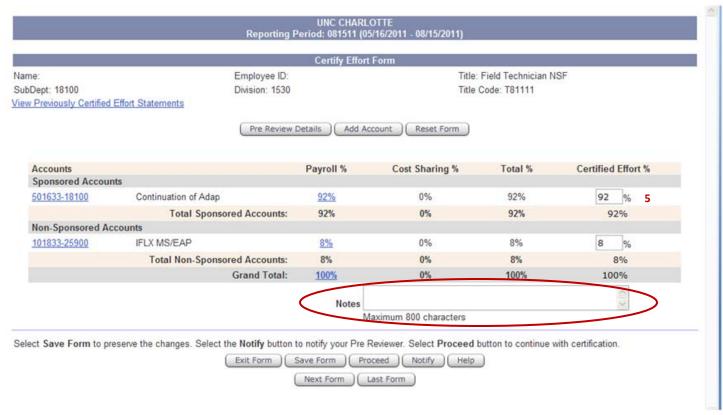


4. If you select the highlighted for the "Grand Total" you will open a page showing you all of the payroll charges, by payroll date, for all of the funds on the effort report. This is called the "Drilldown".



By selecting **Detail by Month** from either of the transaction detail screens you receive a summary by month of the payroll charges, by fund number. See Below:





5. **CERTIFIED EFFORT** % Is the Actual Effort you are certifying.

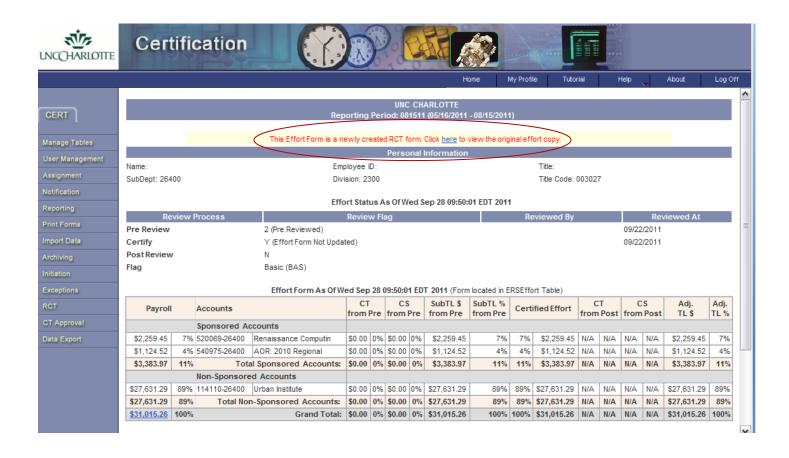
BEFORE YOU MAKE ANY CHANGES TO THIS PERCENTAGE CONTACT YOUR DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATOR. The reason for this is the fact that when you change this percentage it forces a Cost Transfer of funds. So please notify your DA prior to making any changes to this.

ALSO ANY CHANGES TO YOUR CERTIFIED EFFORT% HAS TO BE JUSTIFIED IN THE NOTES BOX.

RETROACTIVE PAYROLL REDISTRIBUTIONS (RCT in Maximus Jargon)

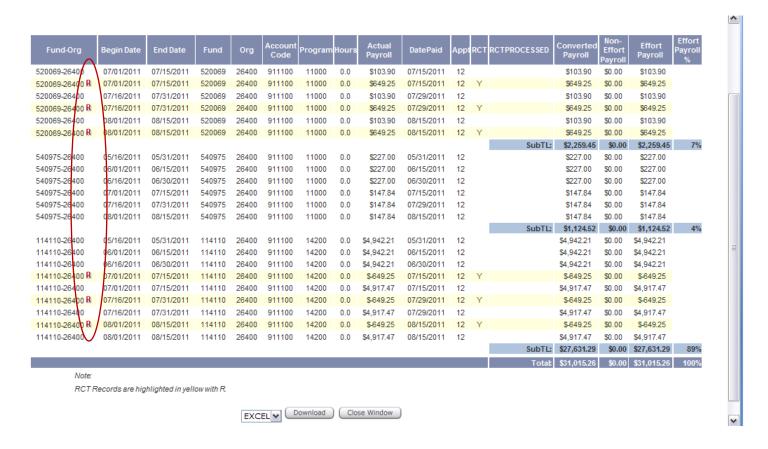
A payroll redistribution is caused when a superseding Personnel Action Form (PAF) is created to change or correct the way a persons' salary is distributed for a certain time period.

If an effort report has been affected by an RCT it is noted on the top of the newly created effort report.



You can then click on the *blue highlighted* total (100%) salary amount on the lower left of the effort report to open the Drilldown detail below.

A Payroll redistribution shows up with the details highlighted in Yellow and with a Red R showing on the drilldown page as shown below.



If you have any questions regarding the Payroll Redistribution, contact your Departmental Administrator, College Business Officer or the Central Administrator for the Effort Reporting System.

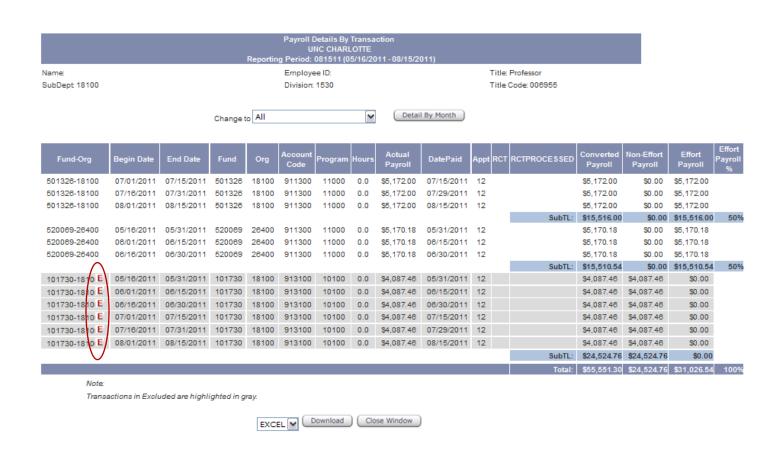
EXCLUDED SALARY

As directed by the exclusion rules for faculty excluded salary is indicated on the effort reports.

During the Academic Year any pay that is considered "Incidental" is **excluded** from the effort reports, this includes any Salary that is considered "**Research SUMMER**" and should have been paid in AP4 between May 16 and August 15.

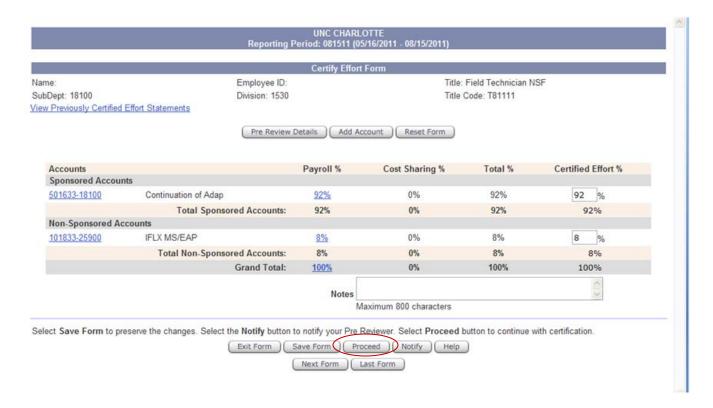
During the summer reporting period (AP4, May 16 – August 15), the 9-month faculty members *academic salary* (account code 913100) is *excluded* from the effort report.

Excluded salary is identified on the drilldown of the effort report by being grayed out and a Capital Red E. Then on the right side of the page your sponsored payroll is shown under EFFORT PAYROLL and the Academic Salary under Non-EFFORT PAYROLL.



CERTIFICATION

After you have reviewed the effort report, you are ready to certify. Click on **PROCEED**



You will then receive the certification statement below.

Certification Statement

"I certify that this Effort Report reasonably reflects the activities of the employee listed above and I have a suitable means of verifying that their work was performed at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for the period covered by this Effort Report."

Click on **Certify** and you are done with that effort report and can either proceed to the next effort report or log-off from the system.

	Reporting	<u> </u>	5/16/2011 - 08/15/2011)		
		Certify Effor			
Name:	Employee ID:			Field Technician N	NSF
SubDept: 18100	Division: 1530		Title	Code: T81111	
Accounts		Payroll %	Cost Sharing %	Total %	Certified Effort %
Sponsored Accounts	5				
<u>501633-18100</u>	Continuation of Adap	92%	0%	92%	92%
	Total Sponsored Accounts:	92%	0%	92%	92%
Non-Sponsored Acc	ounts				
101833-25900	IFLX MS/EAP	<u>8%</u>	0%	8%	8%
	Total Non-Sponsored Accounts:	8%	0%	8%	8%
	Grand Total:	<u>100%</u>	0%	100%	100%
Notes: N/A					
If all information abo	ve is correct, please click on Certify. Click of Certify that this Effort Report reasonal and I have a suitable means of verifyin North Carolina at Charlotte for the peri	oly reflects the ac	ctivities of the employee	listed above	rn to the list.

Certify

If the information above does not reflect your Effort, Do Not Certify. Click on Notify to email your Effort Administrator.